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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR 20 Nov 50

SUBJECT The Novo Brdo Lead and Zinc Mine

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1. The Novo Brdo lead and zinc mine is located approximately 250 meters up on the eastern slope of the Bresja Mountain. The mine is controlled by a director who is subordinate to the General Directorate of Colored Metals of the Serbian Republic in Belgrade.
2. The mine is connected with the Kopaonik mine, which is situated approximately two kilometers east, by a narrow gauge railroad line. All ore mined at Kopaonik is transported by this railroad line to Novo Brdo, and then by an overhead cable to the Lesak railroad station. The overhead cable was constructed by the British in 1937 or 1938. It is approximately thirteen kilometers long and the cars have a capacity of 500 to 600 kilograms each.
3. During the war the Germans constructed a new road connecting the Novo Brdo mine with the Lesak railroad station. This road, of macadam surface, is approximately fourteen kilometers long and its width varies between four and five meters. It has been repaired since 1945 and is now in very good condition. Lesak is connected with the main Skoplje-Rankovicevo railroad line by a single track standard European gauge branch line. It is extensively used for the transporting of minerals from various mines in the area.
4. The planned annual output figures are as follows:
 1949 - 55,000 tons
 1950 - 60,000 tons
 The actual output figures are:
 1949 - 53,000 tons
 1950 - The average daily output varies between 180 and 200 tons of ore. Working on the basis of 310 working days per year the total annual output for 1950 will reach approximately 58,900 tons of ore.
5. All ore from the Novo Brdo and Kopaonik mines is transported by rail from Lesak to the Trepca separation and smelting plant at Zvecan. After processing, zinc concentrate is exported principally to Austria, Italy and Western Germany. Gold and silver are dispatched directly to the National Bank of Yugoslavia in Belgrade. Bismuth is exported to Germany and Austria.

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No Change in Class. ☐

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6. Ore reserves

- a. The ore reserves are divided into three categories, according to an official circular of Soviet origin, published and distributed by the Ministry of Mines in Belgrade. The categories, applicable to all mines in Yugoslavia, are as follows:

Category A, subdivided into:

Category A-1: Deposits which have been accurately surveyed and through preliminary workings are ready for mining.

Category A-2: Deposits whose shape and size are accurately known and which are more or less accessible, but which have not been prepared for mining.

Category B: Deposits whose rough shape has been established through research and initial drillings.

Category C: Covers reserves estimated according to geological indications.

b. Quantities

- 1) Prior to 1948, the average mean content of the ore was as follows:

Lead : 5.3 percent
Zinc : 10.7 percent
Silver: 105 grams per ton
Gold : 2.5 grams per ton

- 2) The present ore reserves are as follows:

Category A: 270,000 tons with average mean content of:

Lead : 4.5 percent
Zinc : 8.1 percent
Silver: 80 grams per ton
Gold : 1.5 grams per ton

Category B: 70,000 tons with average mean content of:

Lead : 4 percent
Zinc : 7.5 percent
Silver: 70 grams per ton
Gold : 1.5 grams per ton

Category C: 120,000 tons.

7. Factors limiting output:

- a. Shortage of all types of equipment and machinery, particularly of boring machines and spare parts, pick hammers, locomotives, rails, spare parts for electrical equipment, rubber piping for compressors, and cables.
- b. The unsatisfactory working and living conditions, particularly shortage of food and clothing, have led to a decrease in the number of men training for mining. This has subsequently resulted in a shortage of skilled workers and technicians.
- c. The Trepca flotation plant at Zvecan is inadequate and in a bad state of repair. Even if the Novo Brdo mine could produce more ore, the flotation plant could not handle it.

8. Developments:

- a. The actual area being mined is already sufficiently extensive to allow

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increased production, but this will be impossible to carry out until new equipment and machinery and additional manpower is allocated to the mine.

- b. Plans have been completed for the installation of a flotation and separation plant, but the project has been held up by lack of the necessary machinery which the Government plans to obtain from the United States.
 - c. A new workers' colony is to be constructed.
9. The mine is supplied with electric power from the Trepca thermo-electric power station at Zvecan. The power, at 35,000 volts, is conducted by triple wire, carried on wooden and steel pylons with an "O"-system safety rigging. The power line leads from Zvecan to Lesak; from there it runs alongside the overhead cable line directly to the mine.
10. Machinery and equipment:
- a. The following machinery and equipment is held at the mine:
 - 1) 45 boring machines of Ingersoll Rand, Chicago Pneumatic, Holman and Sullivan manufacture, each weighing between 18 and 90 kilograms.
 - 2) 50 pick hammers of Goliath, Flottmann and Boehler manufacture.
 - 3) 5 electrically operated compressors of Ingersoll Rand and Chicago Pneumatic manufacture, each with a capacity of 60 cubic meters per minute.
 - 4) 3 Leyner automatic boring tip grinders (sharpening machines).
 - 5) 2 electric ventilators with a capacity of 500 cubic meters per minute and 300 cubic meters per minute respectively.
 - 6) 6 electric ventilators with a capacity of between 40 and 60 cubic meters per minute.
 - 7) 16 tubular ventilators, either electrically or pneumatically (compressed air) driven, with a capacity of approximately 40 cubic meters each. They are of American and German origin.
 - 8) 11 electric transformers. These are of AEG, Fool, Siemens and Rade Koncar manufacture, as well as a few of British origin.
 - 9) 12 electrically operated pumps with a capacity of 1,000, 500, 250 and 80 liters per minute. These are of British, Hungarian and Yugoslav origin.
 - 10) 6 pneumatically operated pumps of Cameron, Duplex and other manufacture.
 - 11) 1 electric winding machine.
 - 12) 4 electrically driven hoists, with one and/or two drums.
 - 13) 120 mine cars with a capacity of between 700 and 900 kilograms.
 - 14) 1 overhead cable railway, 13 kilometers, powered by two electric motors.
 - 15) 30 assorted electric motors of up to 150 horsepower. These are of AEG, Siemens, Skoda, Rade Koncar, Acea and Sever manufacture.

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b. Surface equipment:

- 1) Blacksmith workshop - Equipped with mechanical hammer, a Diesel oven for heating of boring tips, and one automatic Leyner boring tip grinder.
 - 2) Carpenters' workshop - A universal work machine which includes a circular saw, bandsaw, drills, framing chisel, frasing machine, et cetera.
 - 3) Turning shop - Three turning and frasing machines, all of Swiss origin. One small electric boring machine and miscellaneous oiling and greasing equipment.
 - 4) Mechanical workshop - Small electric boring machine tip grinders.
 - 5) Bunker No. 1 (situated at the Novo Brdo terminus of the overhead cable railway line). Three tipping machines, 2 crushers with electric motors and one automatic filler.
 - 6) Lamp store - One hundred electric lamps, powered by either alkali or acid accumulators, 500 carbide lamps, and a lamp-charging plant with a small transformer and ventilator.
 - 7) Garage - Two cars and six trucks of Dodge, Fiat and Skoda manufacture. The garage workshop is fairly well equipped with repair tools.
 - 8) First aid station - Six stretchers and two sets of artificial respiration equipment, driven by a pulmotor.
11. The total number of employees is approximately 1,210. These are divided as follows:
- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Directorate | : 50 technicians, 60 administrative personnel. |
| Miners | : 700 |
| Surface workers: | 300 |
| Forced laborers: | 100 |
12. Work is based on three 8-hour shifts per day, six days per week. There are 440 workers employed on the first shift and approximately 280 on the second and third shifts. The surface workers work one shift per day. The housing conditions are fairly poor. During the first quarter of 1950, workers and their families received only 70 percent of their rations.
13. The Mine Militia, consisting of approximately fifteen of all ranks, is responsible for the supervision of the following places: the mine Directorate, the overhead cable line terminus, the explosives store, the entrance to the mine and the railroad station at Lesak. The Militia is subordinate to the National Militia. Each worker is issued an employment certificate which is checked on entry to the mine. Persons not in possession of such a certificate must report to the National Militia headquarters, who check with the Directorate as to whether the person desiring entrance is entitled to it.

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